



00862.022070.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROSHI KAJIWARA ET AL.

Application No.: 09/730,389

Filed: December 6, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

)
:
)
:
)
:
)
:
)
:
)

Examiner: P. Tran

Group Art Unit: 2621

April 22, 2004

RECEIVED

APR 27 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION-OF-SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2004, Applicants elect to proceed initially with prosecution of the Species of Embodiment 3, readable on Claims 9-12 and 15, and shown in Figs 10-12.

An early and favorable examination of those claims on their merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 29,76

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 421408 v1